

Appln. No. 09/380,372  
Amd. dated June 24, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

4  
6 (Currently amended). The method of Claim [[5]] 16, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

4  
8 (Currently amended). A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of claim [[23]] 28 and a reagent for detecting changes of properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be screened.

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled).

2  
16 (Currently amended). A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising:

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contacting a compound or a mixture of compounds with  
using the cell line of claim 21 to screen for a cell  
differentiation-controlling material; and

determining the capability of the compound or the  
mixture of compounds to induce differentiation of the cell line.

3  
17 (Currently amended). The screening method of claim  
[[27]] 16, wherein the material screened for is a gene.

5  
18 (Previously presented). A kit for screening for a  
cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell  
line of claim 21 and a reagent for detecting changes of  
properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of  
a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be  
screened.

Claims 19-26 (Cancelled)

1  
21 (Previously presented). The cell line which bears  
accession no. FERM BP-5823.